REMARKS

As the amendment filed concurrently with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) mailed on September 25, 2002 (Applicants note that the Examiner indicates the filing date as 9/3/02), under 37 CFR §1.114, Claims 2, 5, 7, 14, 29-34, 3 and 41 are pending. Applicants note that the Examiner has withdrawn the objection to the Specification due to the filing of the new Sequence Listing with the RCE.

. Applicants note that the Examiner indicates Claim 41 is allowable. Applicants also appreciatively note that the Examiner has withdrawn most of his previous rejections. The only (new) rejection is the rejection of Claims 2, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Carr (WO 98/52976), in light of Collen (U.S. Patent No. 5,951,980).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 5, 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Carr (WO 98/52976), in view of Collen (US Patent No. 5,951,980). In particular, the Examiner argues that Carr shows modification of streptokinase by identifying T-cell epitopes therein and then modifying these epitopes by substitution of amino acid residues within these epitopes. The Examiner indicates that with these modifications, the streptokinase is less immunogenic and therefore Claim 2 is allegedly anticipated. The Examiner further argues that Claim 5 is allegedly anticipated as streptokinase is not endogenous to humans. In addition, the Examiner argues that Claim 7 is allegedly anticipated since Carr substitutes amino acid residues K or I and F for Y in each of the respective epitopes taught. In regard to Collen, the Examiner argues that as Collen provides an extrinsic teaching that staphylokinase and streptokinase may induce anaphylaxis, the modified streptokinase of Carr inherently has a lowered allergenicity.

Applicants must respectfully disagree with the Examiner's arguments and rationale. Actually, Applicants are unsure as to the Examiner's rationale regarding the anticipation of the presently claimed invention based on the description of modified streptokinase by Carr. As indicated by Carr (*See*, page 36, line 9), streptokinase "has no inherent enzymatic activity." Thus, if the Examiner is basing the rejection on the similarity between the recitation of "kinase" in Claim 2 and the modification of "streptokinase" by Carr, Applicants submit that based on the Carr reference, the presently claimed invention is novel. Nonetheless, in order to further the prosecution of the present case and Applicants' business interests, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have amended Claim 2 to recite that the polypeptide of

interest is selected from the group consisting of cellulases, lipases, endoglucosidase H, carbohydrase, reductases, oxidases, isomerases, transferases, kinases, and phosphatases, wherein the kinase is not streptokinase. As neither Carr nor Collen teach or even suggest any of the recited proteins, Applicants respectfully submit that the Carr and Collen references do not anticipate the Claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the previously submitted Claims in one or more additional application(s).

CONCLUSION

All grounds of rejection and objection of the Office Action of January 7, 2003, having been addressed, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-5838.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kamrin T. MacKnight
Registration No. 38,230

Genencor International, Inc.
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel: 650-846-5838
Fax: 650-845-6504

APPENDIX I

MARKED-UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN, ADDED, AND/OR CANCELLED CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(ii) with instructions and markings showing changes made herein to the previous version of record of the specification and claims. Underlining denotes added text while bracketing denotes deleted text.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

2. (Thrice Amended) A reduced allergenic variant of a polypeptide of interest, wherein said polypeptide of interest is selected from the group consisting of cellulases, lipases, endoglucosidase H, carbohydrases, reductases, oxidases, isomerases, transferases, kinases, and phosphatases, wherein said kinase is not streptokinase, and said polypeptide of interest comprises a T-cell epitope,

wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that one or more amino acid residues of the T-cell epitope are altered and

wherein an allergenic immunogenic response produced by said variant in an individual is less than said allergenic immunogenic response produced by said polypeptide of interest.

APPENDIX II

CLEAN VERSION OF THE ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED IN THIS COMMUNICATION

The following is a list of the Claims as they would appear following entry of this amendment.

2. (Thrice Amended) A reduced allergenic variant of a polypeptide of interest, wherein said polypeptide of interest is selected from the group consisting of cellulases, lipases, endoglucosidase H, carbohydrases, reductases, oxidases, isomerases, transferases, kinases, and phosphatases, wherein said kinase is not streptokinase, and said polypeptide of interest comprises a T-cell epitope,

wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that one or more amino acid residues of the T-cell epitope are altered and

wherein an allergenic immunogenic response produced by said variant in an individual is less than said allergenic immunogenic response produced by said polypeptide of interest.

5. (Once Amended) The variant of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide of interest is not recognized by said individual as endogenous to said individual.

7. (Once Amended) The variant of claim 2, wherein said T-cell epitope is altered with amino acid substitutions.

14. (Twice Amended) A cleaning composition, an animal feed composition, or a composition for treating a textile comprising the variant of claim 2.

29. The variant of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide of interest is a cellulase.

30. The variant of claim 29, wherein the T-cell epitope of the polypeptide of interest corresponds to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO. 222 or SEQ ID NO: 223.

31. The variant of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide of interest is a lipase.

32. The variant of claim 31, wherein the T-cell epitope of the polypeptide of interest corresponds to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 225 or SEQ ID NO: 226.

33. The variant of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide of interest is an endoglucosidase H.

34. The variant of claim 33, wherein the T-cell epitope of the polypeptide of interest corresponds to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 228.

39. A cosmetic care formulation for skin, hair or oral care comprising the variant of claim 2.

41. A reduced allergenic variant of a polypeptide of interest, wherein said polypeptide of interest is selected from the group consisting of a cellulase, lipase, endoglucosidase H, carbohydrase, reductase, oxidase, isomerase, transferase, kinase, phosphatase and a protease and said polypeptide of interest comprises a T-cell epitope,

wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that at least two amino acid residues of the T-cell epitope are altered, and wherein an allergenic immunogenic response produced by said variant is less in an individual than the allergenic immunogenic response produced by said polypeptide of interest